



# Dane County

## Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

### Environmental Council

*Consider:*

*Who benefits? Who is burdened?*

*Who does not have a voice at the table?*

*How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?*

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Wednesday, January 15, 2020

5:00 PM

City County Bld, Room 321

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City County Bld, Room 321

#### A. Call To Order

- Present** 4 - NATALIE EISNER, TEAGUE MAWER, Supervisor JULIE SCHWELLENBACH, and JEFFREY SOELLNER
- Excused** 2 - THOMAS EGGERT, and LAKSHMI SRIDHARAN

Soellner called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Habecker and Dea Larsen Converse, Clean Lakes Alliance also present. Eggert and Sridharan excused.

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

*Minutes of December 4, 2019 were unanimously approved.*

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[2019](#)  
[MIN-364](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL DECEMBER 4 2019 MINUTES

**Attachments:** [Minutes December 4 2019](#)

#### C. Action Items

##### 1. Election of Officers

*Natalie Eisner was unanimously approved as the new chair of Dane County Environmental Council effective immediately.*

**Natalie Eisner was unanimously approved as the new chair of Dane County Environmental Council effective immediately.**

Council discussed who was willing to move into the role of chair. Soellner, the current chair is stepping off the Council after serving as chair for several years. Eisner expressed an interest in running for chair. At a future meeting the Council will have to elect a new vice chair as Mawer, currently serving in that role will also be leaving the Council. After the election, Eisner chaired the rest of the meeting. Soellner and Mawer were thanked for their service.

## 2. Grant Program Items Needing Attention

Habecker shared a summary of the organizations that have currently received grants over the last 5 years and have not turned in final reports. There are very few of them and since grantees have 2 years to complete their projects, this is the reason why some are not in as projects are not yet completed due to weather or sometimes staffing changes. Habecker will be following up with the few that still need to get reports in and will provide an update at the end of February. Council discussed the possibility of putting language into the grant application that failure to complete grant requirements including the final report may jepordize future funding in the grant program. This will be discussed when Council meets to look at the grant process revisions for 2021.

The first 2020 grant application came in today and inquiries have been coming in.

Habecker also noted that there are other environmental grants that the county or other local government units offer. Having some place where all are listed and described might be useful to applicants. Swwellenbach said she would look into if such exists for Dane County.

## 3. Private Fundraising

Soellner said that he has finally been able to contact the correct person at ATC and that she seemed interested in potentially funding the Council as there was an alignment in goals and because MGE Foundation had also funded the Council. Soellner will be sending ATC information on this by the end of the month.

## 4. Pollinator Protection Initiatives

Habecker is working on signage design for the 2020 gardens as the plants are all ordered. She also met with staff from the Land and Water Resource Department as they have a Plant Dane program that focuses on planting native plants in Dane County. The program was affiliated with creation of rain gardens for water quality work, but has become more general and they see that we have a strong link to their program with our newly developing Community and School Pollinator Incentive Program. The similar nature of the programs may lead to confusion for the public, so we will be working to see if we can take the strengths of each of these programs and make one blended program. We will continue to meet this year. Our final program will probably not be launched until fall 2020 so there is time for this new blending.

Habecker is still working on getting funds transferred to UW for the stipends for entomology student talks on pollinators to schools and other groups in Dane County through their Insect Ambassador Club program, and to provide funding for the electronic version development of the pollinator habitat assessment tool that will provide users with tips on what practices they can use to improve their property both urban or rural.

**D. Presentations**

1. Announcements

Habecker shared thank you notes from grant awardees. She also submitted to present on the county's pollinator work at the National Community Development Society Conference. It is juried so she will let the Council know if the presentation was accepted. Three people have applied to fill the soon to be empty three seats on the Council. This may take some time until the appointments are finalized.

**E. Reports to Committee - none**

[2019 RPT-365](#) COMMUNITY & SCHOOL POLLINATOR FRIENDLY PRACTICES PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

*Attachments:* [Community and School Program Description Final](#)

[2019 RPT-366](#) COMMUNITY & SCHOOL POLLINATOR FRIENDLY PRACTICES PROGRAM APPLICATION

*Attachments:* [Application for Community School P Program](#)

**F. Future Meeting Items and Dates**

The next meeting for the Council is February 27, 2020 at 5pm in room 321 CCB.

**G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda - none**

**H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law - none**

**I. Adjourn**

adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

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*LUS CIM: Yog hais tias koj xav tau ib tug neeg txhais lus, ib tug neeg txhais ntawv, cov ntawv ua lwm hom ntawv los sis lwm cov kev pab kom siv tau cov kev pab, cov kev ua ub no (activity) los sis qhov kev pab cuam, thov hu rau tus xov tooj hauv qab yam tsawg peb hnuv ua hauj lwm ua ntej yuav tuaj sib tham.*

*Staff: Mindy Habecker [habecker@countyofdane.com](mailto:habecker@countyofdane.com) or 608-224-3718*